

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Currently amended): A unit for applying printed coupons ~~slips~~ to packets in packaging machines, comprising: first means by which to feed coupons ~~slips~~ procured as single items ordered in a stack, or second means by which to feed coupons obtained ~~slips-obtainable~~ as cuts ~~made~~ from a continuous strip, ~~an~~ a universal pickup and application device installed permanently in the machine which ~~such as will~~ takes up ~~the~~ an individual coupon ~~slips~~ with equal facility from either the first or the second feed means at a pickup station and conveys the coupon to a release position where the coupon is placed in a desired position relative to a collar at an assembly station.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 23, wherein the first and second feed means are mutually interchangeable.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): A unit as in claim 24, wherein the first feed means comprise a magazine containing a plurality of coupons ~~slips~~ ordered in a stack aligned on a relative axis substantially perpendicular to the pickup station.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A unit as in claim 24, wherein the second feed means comprise units by means of which respectively to decoil, feed and cut a continuous strip, of which the feed unit is designed to index the continuous strip, at least when in the neighborhood of the pickup station, through predetermined steps and in a direction coinciding with a plane disposed parallel and in close proximity to a reference plane of the pickup station.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): A unit as in claim 23, wherein the pickup and application device includes at least one pickup assembly, located on a carrier, which assembly moves ~~capable of movement~~ between the pickup station and a the release position~~[[,]] generated according to a previously determined law of motion and described~~ due to movement of the carrier about an axis ~~lying~~ parallel to a reference plane of the pickup station.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): A unit as in claim 27, wherein the pickup assembly comprises a pickup mechanism ~~caused by the law of motion governing the movement of the selfsame assembly to which~~ rolls tangentially ~~to a~~ in reference to the plane ~~of~~ containing the pickup station during the step of picking up the coupon ~~slips~~ from the ~~selfsame~~ pick up station and thereafter to advance the coupon along a predetermined path, passing from the pickup station to the release position.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): A unit as in claim 27, wherein the pickup mechanism is furnished with at least one suction cup connectable to a source of negative pressure and designed to attract a coupon ~~slip~~ occupying the reference plane of the pickup station by rolling against one face thereof.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A unit as in claim 29 , wherein the pickup and application device comprises first and second guiding and locating means serving to ensure the correct transfer of the coupons ~~slips~~.